German Studies

The major and minor in German studies are administered by the Department of German Studies: Professors Remmler, Wittig Davis; Senior Lecturers Lauer, Van Handle; Visiting Assistant Professor Holden.

Overview

The Department of German Studies offers a program that promotes an understanding of the connections between language and its larger cultural contexts and prepares its students for diverse career paths by integrating curricular and experiential learning. We aim to lead our students to what is called "translingual and transcultural competence," a proficiency that is essential in all fields in today's globalized world. On advanced projects, we cooperate with colleagues at Mount Holyoke or the Five Colleges who are experts in, for example, film studies, economics, science, history, politics, art, music, philosophy, and literature. Finally, our graduates gain a much deeper grasp of their own languages and cultures, a much more substantive level of self-awareness of their own traditions and values.

Language learning in our program, then, emphasizes at all levels the interrelationship between target language and culture and native language and culture; self and community; curriculum and career. We also consistently explore the global interconnections between German and European cultures. We provide opportunities for students to integrate their interest in other subjects with material in our upper-intermediate and advanced-level courses. Furthermore, we encourage our students to seek experiential learning by participating in our exchanges with the Universities of Bonn and Leipzig, as well as the Berlin School of Economics and Law, and combine study with internship experience.

Following the credo of Mary Lyon, the department has a proud tradition of connecting its rigorous curricular program with career exploration opportunities for students. So we have built an alumnae network to provide current students with assistance when searching for internships or employment either in the U.S. or internationally. Many of these alumnae continued their studies in German and other fields at the most renowned graduate and professional schools in the United States and abroad. Finally, we strive to remain up to date, and provide students with optimal support during the application process, regarding stipend and internship opportunities in science, business, politics, journalism, film, and the arts—to name but a few—as well as study, research, and teaching fellowships abroad.

German studies majors graduating from Mount Holyoke College have used the analytical, cultural, and linguistic competence they acquired to pursue a wide range of careers in international affairs, banking, business, publishing, journalism, radio and television broadcasting, law, government, education, medicine, and other sciences. All department members have Ph.D. training in interdisciplinary German studies as well as German literature and participate in a wide range of interdisciplinary programs. Our courses, therefore, contribute to such programs as critical social thought, film studies, gender studies, and Jewish studies. We strongly recommend that students take courses in German history, economics, psychology, philosophy, politics, art, music, film, and other fields related to German and European culture.

Our entire curriculum, then, supports the study of the German language within its European and global cultural and historical contexts and is adapted to the individual student’s background, style, and pace of learning. To facilitate such learning, the department has proved a pioneer in creatively employing the use of technology throughout its curriculum, from elementary courses to advanced seminars. Technology, moreover, serves several learning goals: students acquire marketable skills in learning how to create substantive multimedia projects; students with certain learning styles may improve their comprehension by specific types of media use; and accessibility is afforded other students who could otherwise not participate in classes. In addition, all our courses focus on developing critical reading, speaking, and writing skills.

Class time focuses on interpersonal communication among students and with the instructor, and among students and peer assistants from Germany. From the beginning, students learn strategies for understanding German speakers in a variety of contexts, on many levels, and in diverse situations. When selecting course content materials, we focus on our students’ goals in studying German. In weekly conversation sessions, peer assistants from Germany provide opportunities for informal conversations. All courses are conducted in German, except first-year seminars and 231. However, students in these courses may receive credit toward the German studies major or minor by enrolling in a complementary two-credit speaking and writing course (German Studies 232). The major in German studies, therefore, integrates learning inside and outside the classroom, the development of language skills with the study of the social, economic, and cultural developments in the German-speaking countries, in the past and present and within a larger transnational context.

Our graduating seniors have consistently been awarded such highly regarded national and international graduate fellowships as DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), Fulbright, PAD (Pädagogischer Austauschdienst), Congress/Bundestag Fellowship for Young Professionals, Bundestag Internship Program (Internationale Parlaments-Praktika Internship Programm), CDS Emigré Parliamentary/Cultural Vistas Internships, and internships with the European Union.

Contact Info
Karen Remmler, chair
Carmen Sullivan, senior administrative assistant
German Studies Website: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/german

Requirements for the Major

Credits

- A minimum of 32 credits beyond German Studies 103, of which at least 12 must be at the 300 level in the German Studies Department.

Courses

- German Studies 201 Intermediate German
- German Studies 221 German Culture Today: 'Stories and Histories'
- German Studies 223: 223 may be taken more than once as long as topics do not overlap. Normally, no more than a total of four credits of independent study at the 200-level (295) may be counted toward the major. Prerequisites for 300-level courses include 221 and 223.
- Three courses at the 300 level, including an advanced-level topics course, 315 or 323, and the senior seminar, 325, to be completed during the fall semester of senior year. Normally, no more than a total of four credits of independent study (395) may be counted toward the major in addition to eight credits of 395 senior thesis work. (Students may count up to two 300-level courses taken during a year of study abroad with approval of the chair.) 315 and 325 may be taken more than once as long as topics do not overlap.
- Eight additional credits beyond 103.
- Courses in Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context (231) are not normally part of the minimum major of 32 credits. Students may earn credit in German if they read German texts in the original, write their papers in German, and participate in a German discussion session, i.e., enroll in 232, 332, the 2-credit discussion course taught in German which complement German courses taught in English (231 or 331).
As culture is constructed and expressed through language, students are expected to conduct their work in the department and as much work as possible outside the department, in the German language.

In conjunction with their advisors, students plan an individualized program of study suited to their interests and backgrounds. To ensure breadth of background and context, we strongly encourage students to include at least one course each relating to the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries and to complement their German Studies major with a second major, minor, Nexus, or Five College certificate. To ensure depth, students may focus on a specific topic, period, or century. Courses about Germany or Europe taught in other departments or programs may be selected from such fields as anthropology, art, critical social thought, economics, environmental studies, film studies, gender studies, history, history of science, international relations, Jewish studies, music, politics, philosophy, psychology, religious studies, sociology, and theatre arts. Students should focus their work in these courses on issues relating to German-speaking countries and consult with the department to choose appropriate courses.

Requirements for the Minor

The minor in German studies is intended to provide a focused introduction to the language and culture of German-speaking countries within a larger transnational context. It leads to a basic level of translingual and transcultural competence.

Credits

- A minimum of 16 credits beyond German Studies 103 and at least one 4-credit course at the 300 level in the German Studies Department

Courses

- 201, 221, (4 credits), and at least one topics course, 223 (4 credits). 223 may be taken more than once as long as topics do not overlap. Normally, no more than a total of four credits of independent study (295) may be counted toward the minor. Prerequisites for 300-level courses include 221 and 223.
- One course at the 300 level in the Department of German Studies
- Courses in Topics in German and European Studies within a Global Context (231) are not normally part of the minimum minor of 16 credits within the department. Students may earn credit in German if they read texts in the original, write their papers in German, and participate in a German discussion session, i.e., enroll in 232, the 2-credit discussion course taught in German which complements German courses taught in English (FYS or 231 or 331).

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in pursuing licensure in the field of German studies can combine their course work with a minor in education. In some instances, coursework in the major coincides with coursework required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For more information, please consult your advisor, the chair of the German studies department, and the “Teacher Licensure” page on the German studies website: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/german/programs.html.

Licensure also requires a formal application as well as passing scores on the Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure (MTEL) in both the literacy component and the subject matter component. Copies of the test objectives for the MTEL are available in the Department of Psychology and Education. Licensure application information and materials are available in the Department of Psychology and Education.

Study and Internships Abroad in German-Speaking Countries

The junior year in Germany is open to both majors and non-majors. To be appropriately prepared for study in Germany, students who wish to participate should have studied German continuously, at least one course each semester, during their first and second years. Majors spending the junior year in a German-speaking country with a program approved by the department and the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives normally satisfy some of the minimum requirements of their major while abroad. By completing appropriate course work, including written work, students majoring in German may transfer the equivalent of one course per semester at the 300 level and additional credits at the 200 level. Minors spending the junior year in a German-speaking country with a program approved by the department and the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives may bring back the equivalent of one course at the 300 level and one course at the 200 level. Upon their return, students are required to participate in at least one course per semester in the department so that faculty can evaluate them based on work done in the senior year when writing recommendations for graduate school or employment opportunities.

The department has exchange programs with the Universities of Bonn and Leipzig. In addition, the department participates in the College’s exchange with the Berlin School of Economics and Law. The chair and other faculty will assist each student with selecting an individually appropriate opportunities. See above and the department’s study abroad Web page for more details: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/global/major_ger-man.html. Our students frequently spend time abroad, either in their junior year or in the summer. They also take advantage of diverse internship opportunities at: German investment banks or brokerage firms, science laboratories, hospitals, newspapers, intercultural agencies, schools, radio and television stations, museums, libraries, archives, and other places of professional interest to them.

Course Advice

German Studies 231 and 331 satisfy the Humanities distribution requirement. It may also be possible to count these courses toward the German major or minor if students simultaneously enroll in the 2-credit complementary course, German Studies 232 (or 332 with 331).

For New Students

Placement

The Department of German Studies will review the course selection of all entering students, taking into consideration school and AP records together with the answers to the questionnaire at http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/german/placement.html.

All students with prior knowledge of German who plan to elect German in either semester must complete this questionnaire carefully. Final course placement will be based on the following considerations: the student’s specific training in German, the results of the student’s online placement exam, and scheduling possibilities. Students should take the online placement exam prior to registration, if possible. It is available at http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/german/placement.html.

Students contemplating spending all or part of their junior year in Germany should elect German in the first semester of their first year, since two continuous years of German in college are normally required for junior year programs in Germany.

Courses that satisfy the College language requirement only are designated as such. Other courses can satisfy either the language requirement or fulfill a Humanities distribution requirement.
First-Year Seminars offered by German Studies faculty and German Studies 231, Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context, are writing-intensive courses taught in English. Both courses are open to first-year students.

Course Selection

Students in Groups II–IV are required to take the online placement exam. Students may choose their courses according to the following guidelines, but all students are encouraged to consult with the chair of the department during the summer or upon arrival on campus. Email: kremmler@mtholyoke.edu

Group I: Students with no previous training in German, or with the equivalent of a year of study at the secondary school level, should elect German Studies 101 in the fall, or German Studies 103 in the spring. German Studies 101 and 102 constitute a yearlong Elementary German course; German Studies 103 is an intensive course that covers two semesters (one year) in one semester.

Group II: Students who have studied German for more than one year but for fewer than four years, or who feel they need a comprehensive review of grammar, should elect German Studies 201. Students entering in the spring who have studied German for one or two years may choose German Studies 102 in consultation with the chair.

Group III: Students with three or four years of study in German should ordinarily elect 221, German Culture Today. Students with four or more years of German or extensive experience living in a German-speaking country or speaking German should ordinarily elect German Studies 223 (Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context) based on the results of the placement exam.

Group IV: Other students with previous training in German should consult with the department chair (kremmler@mtholyoke.edu) during the summer or in September for individual placement or enroll in German Studies 223.

Course Offerings

GRMST-101 Elementary German

Fall
This course introduces speaking, reading, and writing German. Cultural and literary readings together with frequent use of video and other online resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries sensitize students to the cultural context in which the language is used. Weekly conversation sessions with a German language assistant supplement class work.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
M. Lauer, D. Van Handle
Coreq: GRMST-101L.
Notes: requires conversation session (50 minutes)
Credits: 4

GRMST-102 Elementary German

Spring
Continuation of the elementary German course; practice in speaking, reading, and writing German. Cultural and literary readings together with frequent use of online resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries sensitize students to the cultural context in which the language is used. Weekly conversation sessions with a German language assistant supplement class work.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
M. Lauer
Prereq: German 101, or see department for placement.
Advisory: See department for placement if you have not taken German 101 at Mount Holyoke College.
Notes: requires conversation session (50 minutes)
Credits: 4

GRMST-103 Intensive Elementary German

Spring
Two semesters in one. Practice in speaking, reading, and writing German. Cultural and literary readings together with frequent use of online resources dealing with everyday situations and experiences in the German-speaking countries sensitize students to the cultural context in which the language is used. Weekly conversation sessions with German language assistant supplement class work.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
D. Van Handle
Notes: 4 meetings (75 minutes) plus required conversation session (50 minutes)
Credits: 8

GRMST-201 Intermediate German

Fall
This course emphasizes further development of contextual reading, writing, and speaking skills in German. Focus on strategies that help students learn vocabulary and use grammatical structures in appropriate ways. Discussion of a variety of texts and genres, as well as exploration of topics such as immigration and social justice. Frequent writing assignments and speaking opportunities.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
M. Lauer
Prereq: German Studies 101, 102, or 103.; Coreq: GRMST-201L.
Advisory: German Studies 101 and 102, or German Studies 103, or permission of instructor
Credits: 4

GRMST-215 Lesen, Schreiben, Sprechen

Not Scheduled for This Year
Intensive practice in reading, writing, and speaking German. Students will write short essays on topics of their choosing, in addition to application letters and a sample résumé for an internship or job in Germany. We will focus also on developing reading strategies and on improving students' ability to converse colloquially, idiomatically, and formally in German. Readings on popular culture, music, as well as current political, social, cultural, historical, and economic issues in the German-speaking world, reflecting student interest and academic focus. Students engage in a variety of speaking activities such as presentations, role-playing and simulations, pair work, and group discussions.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement
D. Van Handle
Advisory: See department for placement if you have not taken German 101 at Mount Holyoke College.
Notes: Students in German Studies 221 or 223 are strongly encouraged to enroll in German Studies 215 or 216 for additional language practice and review.
Credits: 2

GRMST-221 German Culture Today:

Not Scheduled for This Year
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
G. Wittig Davis
Advisory: Previous study of German, normally equivalent to 3 semesters of college German, or 3 or more years of high school German; or permission of instructor.
Credits: 4
Course can be repeated for credit.

GRMST-221SH German Culture Today: 'Stories and Histories'

Fall and Spring
This course examines historical, cultural, and political developments that continue to frame debates about the twentieth century, World War II, the former
GRMST-223 Special Topics in German Studies
This course examines the cultural, political and social developments from 1800 to the present by investigating a significant topic in the German tradition and its interconnections to larger transnational context. The selection of materials is exemplary rather than comprehensive and is based on thematic, historical, generic and other units.

GRMST-223FC Topics in German Studies: 'Curing the Woes of Integration?: Culturally Diverse Film Comedy as Medicine'
Not Scheduled for This Year
Early on, German cinema was embroiled in heated debates about its value: Is it, like the theater, both entertainment and education? Does film, like the novel, tell a narrative that makes us laugh and cry? Can it help us discern the constructions of our individual, national, and transnational identities? In recent decades, Germany, and Western Europe, have grappled with integrating large migrant groups. Politicians are frantically searching for a way to cure the ills purportedly caused by integration failure; anti-immigrant rightist parties are growing in the EU. Yet a vibrant corpus of comedic films and literature about and by migrants has arisen. Will laughter prove the "best medicine"?
Crosslisted as: Film Studies 220FC
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
G. Wittig Davis
Prereq: Previous study of German equivalent to four or more semesters of college German.
Advisory: Previous study of German, normally equivalent to 4 or more semesters of college German or 4-5 years of high school German, or extended study in a German-speaking country. Or permission of instructor.
Notes: Students new to the department must complete the online placement exam. Placement will be finalized at the beginning of the semester. Students may consult with the instructor about taking this course for 300-level credit. Lab section required of any student taking this at the 300 level.
Credits: 4

GRMST-224 Tutorial in German Culture
Not Scheduled for This Year
Focus on the spoken and written analysis of materials covered in 223 and on topics of interest to students. Emphasis on revising and editing papers and on developing oral presentations for variety of audiences.
Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
The department
Coreq: GRMST-223.
Advisory: German Studies 220
Notes: Students in 223 are expected to enroll in the complementary two-credit tutorial, German Studies 224.
Credits: 2
Course can be repeated for credit.

GRMST-232 German Studies Tutorial
Focus on developing discussion and reading skills in German, and revising and editing papers, or media projects, composed in German for German studies courses taught in English.

GRMST-232CS German Studies Tutorial for Courses Taught in English: 'Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Critical Social Thought'
Not Scheduled for This Year
Close reading and translation workshop based on texts in German pertaining to GRMST-231: Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Critical Social Thought. An introduction to some of the great critical voices of the nineteenth century. We will explore the ideas of such mutinous thinkers as Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, and Franz Kafka, focusing on the style as well as the substance of their works and the circumstances that provoked them to write and/or that their writings helped provoke. The course will highlight the tension between appearance and reality, the dialectic of domination and subordination, and the place of reason and irrationality in social life.
Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement
K. Remmler
Prereq: One year of college-level study of German; Coreq: GRMST-231.
Notes: Majors/minors in the department and students interested in earning German credit should simultaneously enroll in both German Studies 231 and German Studies 232.
German St. 5

Credits: 2

GRMST-232GL German Studies Tutorial: 'Why Do Germans Laugh?: Film Comedy from Lubitsch to Akin and Solanen'

Spring
We discuss selected materials in German, which complements or is part of the content of German Studies 231 taught in English. Humorless Germans? Comedy and Romance in German Film and other Media. The role of language in comedy should be particularly critical for us because of the issue of (un)translatability. Furthermore, our focus is on in-depth discussion and diverse 'readings' of the films. All students will create a critique as an oral presentation in the form of a brief (1-2 page) position paper. This 'Thesenpapier' will state the overall concept (Hauptthese), outline major arguments (Thesen) in bullet form and end with a stimulus for plenary discussion.

Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Topics Course
G. Wittig Davis
Prereq: One year of college-level study of German.; Coreq: GRMST-231.
Notes: Taught in German. To satisfy requirements, you must enroll in this course and German Studies 231. Majors/minors in the department and students interested in earning German credit should simultaneously enroll in both German Studies 231 and German Studies 232.

Credits: 2

GRMST-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-4
Course can be repeated for credit.

GRMST-301 German From Curriculum to Career

Not Scheduled for This Year
Familiarizes students with oral and written discourses in reading, writing, and speaking. Students focus on in-depth analyses of writing and speaking patterns in current newspaper and magazine articles. Thematic foci include Germany's Soziale Marktwirtschaft, Germany's responsibilities and political and economic agenda within the European Union, and Germany's political and economic ties to Asia. Material based on most recent articles, news reports, and debates. Frequent text-oriented exercises emphasize students' individual progress in light of different language and learner profiles and different student needs.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
M. Lauer
Advisory: Open to students who have completed at least 8 credits beyond German Studies 201 or permission of department

Credits: 4

GRMST-315 Topics in German and European Culture in a Global Context

Not Scheduled for This Year
This course studies selected filmmakers from Weimar to the present who have broken existing taboos but also by foregrounding current issues such as globalization, alienation, terrorism, and homophobia.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
G. Wittig Davis
Advisory: Previous study of German
Crosslisted as: Film Studies 370BK

Credits: 4

GRMST-315PW Topics in German and European Culture in a Global Context: 'The Politics of Memory in Postwar Germany and Japan'

Spring
Cultural exchanges between German and Japanese peoples have taken place for over 400 years. What has triggered and sustained exchanges of cultural, social, artistic, and military traditions? How have these historical exchanges affected the remembrance of WW II, the Holocaust, the Nanjing massacre, forced prostitution of Korean and other women, and the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? We focus on the process of remembering war and atrocity as depicted through different media, such as first-hand accounts, fictional narratives, photographs and other visual images. Students are encouraged to combine primary research in any language and in multiple media.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
K. Remmler
Prereq: Advanced study of German.

Credits: 4

GRMST-323 Topics in German Studies: German Culture from 1800 to 2000

This course examines the cultural, political and social developments from 1800 to 2000 and the present by investigating a significant topic. The selection of materials is exemplary rather than comprehensive and is based on thematic, historical, generic and other units.

GRMST-323VM Topics in German Studies: German Culture from 1800 to 2000: 'Visions and Discoveries That Transformed the Present: Voices of Makers and Filmmakers'

Not Scheduled for This Year

(Speaking- and writing-intensive; The 'long 19th century,' with the political explosion of the French Revolution and the scientific explosion of the steam engine, burst into modernity, defining itself and the 'short 20th century' in manifold areas: science, economics, politics, art, literature, education. Controversial values are attributed to concepts like secularization, nation-building, industrialization, and democratization. We will analyze representations in film and text of such discoveries and visions, e.g., in bacteriology, environmentalism, political and social upheaval, the concept of a democratic nation state, Marx's theories, Bismarck's German unification, the social-security system, and women's movements.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
G. Wittig Davis
Advisory: Previous study of German

Credits: 4

GRMST-325 Senior Capstone Seminar

Fall
This seminar is designed to explore the nature of our field of inquiry in theory and practice. Students pursue independent research connecting German studies and another major academic field of interest, respond critically to each others' work, and lead discussions. All students read texts exploring such questions as:
What does German Studies mean? What is interdisciplinary work? What role does literature play in culture studies? What is the relationship between language and the construction of culture? Why learn German vis a vis "global English"? What meanings have been attributed to the terms "culture" and "civilization"?

GRMST-231CS 'Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context: 'Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Critical Social Thought'
Not Scheduled for This Year
An introduction to some of the great critical voices of the nineteenth century with emphasis on their relevance for contemporary issues. We will explore the ideas of such mutinous thinkers as Karl Marx Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, W.E.B. Du Bois and Franz Kafka focusing on the style as well as the substance of their works and the circumstances that provoked them to write and/or that their writings helped provoke. The course will highlight the tension between appearance and reality, the dialectic of domination and subordination, and the place of reason and irrationality in social life. Case studies of contemporary issues with attention to the impact of 19th century thinkers on critical theory in the 20th and 21st centuries also round out the course.

Applications to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
M. Lauer
Restrictions: This course is limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Advisory: Seniors only. Advanced knowledge of German. Non-seniors by permission of the department.
Notes: Taught in English. Students with one or more years of college-level German may opt for German 232 as well. 232 is a tutorial in close reading and translation of the German texts related to the material in this course. Students with no previous study of German are encouraged to take German 101 or 103 to complement this course.

Credits: 4
Course can be repeated for credit.

GRMST-325BG Senior Capstone Seminar: 'Deutschsein--Images of Being German: Identities, Languages, and Cultures'

Fall
Fouque's Undine, a 'migrant' author's bestseller of Romanticism -- the iconic era of German Nationalism -- inspired Austrian Bachmann in her 1961 subversive tale Undine geht, which challenges and transcends gender and other social-cultural boundaries. Weimar Cinema 'realized' the cultural-critical and economic dimensions of Romantic texts by filming the margins: Dracula, shadows, fairytales. Even Nazi-supporter Riefenstahl drew on the dark side of the tradition. All postwar Germans have struggled to find common languages for a globalized economy and a de-facto immigrant society. Presently culture wars are raging again about gender-inclusive language and the Judeo-Christian tradition versus Islam.

Applications to requirement(s): Humanities; Language; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
G. Wittig Davis
Restrictions: This course is limited to seniors.
Advisory: Seniors only. Advanced knowledge of German. Non-seniors by permission of instructor.
Notes: This seminar may constitute the first 4 credits of the 8 credits of independent work required for completion of an honors thesis. During spring semester, students would continue the project started in 325, in a 395 independent study with the instructor of 325 or another supervisor.

Credits: 4
Course can be repeated for credit.

GRMST-332 Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context
Focus on developing argumentation and reading skills in German, and researching, revising and editing seminar papers written in German for German studies seminars taught in English.

GRMST-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-8
Course can be repeated for credit.

Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context

GRMST-231 Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context
An introduction to critical reading, writing, and arguing skills, emphasizing the practice of oral and written strategies for discussing and analyzing printed and film texts and the reader's responses to them.

GRMST-231HG 'Topics in German and European Studies: 'Humorless Germans? Comedy and Romance in German Film and other Media'
Spring
Germans have no sense of humor, right? Yet preeminent cultural critic Marcel Reich-Ranicki claims that, next to England, no other country demonstrates a cultural tradition as deeply steeped in humor and comedy. Who is right? Are Germans humorless robots or born with funny bones? We will challenge the notion of humor as a universal concept and examine the comic as a cultural phenomenon, tracing its changes from Goethe's erotic poetry to Lubitsch's "Jewish gender-confirming" Weimar film comedies to today's "immigrant" film comedies like Fatih Akin's Soul Kitchen or Rebel Comedy TV and Susanna Salonen's 2014 Filmpreis movie Patong Girl, a favorite at the North German Film Festival 2015.

Crosslisted as: Film Studies 270HG
Applicants to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
G. Wittig Davis
Notes: No knowledge of German necessary. Counts as a film studies component course. Contact instructor if conflict with announced screening time. For German Studies credit and language requirement, German Studies 232 must also be completed and all written work for 231HG must be completed in German.

Credits: 4

GRMST-231RH 'Topics in German Studies: 'Representing the Holocaust in Film'
Fall
To mark the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II, this seminar explores the impact of films depicting the European Holocaust from the first encounter between the liberators and the survivors up to the present day. We analyze the global contexts in which the films came into being and the changing reception of the films with the advent of digital distribution. With a focus on less well-known films from newly distributed archival footage and more recent documentaries made by second and third-generation children of survivors and perpetrators, we examine issues such as the precarious relationship between memory and history and the ethics of filming the dead and individuals in pain.

Crosslisted as: Film Studies 220RH
Applicants to requirement(s): Humanities

German St. 6
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive; Speaking-Intensive; Topics Course
K. Remmler
Notes: Taught in English. Students may consult with the instructor about taking this course for 300-level credit. Students wishing to receive credit in German Studies also must sign up for GRMST-295-02 Independent Study for 2 credits with Karen Remmler. This 2-credit addition will serve as the German discussion section for this course, time to be arranged. Contact Professor Remmler for permission.
Credits: 4

GRMST-231WF  Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context: 'Transforming Visions: Homage to German Women Filmmakers'
Not Scheduled for This Year
Focus on the discussion and analysis of films by German women directors from Lotte Reiniger, pioneer of animation films, and Leni Riefenstahl, controversial director and mythmaker of the Third Reich, to such trailblazing women directors of the New German Cinema as Margarethe von Trotta, Jutta Brückner, and Helma Sanders-Brahms. Moreover, we will attempt to determine whether more recent women directors like Doris Dörrie or Caroline Link, including those of migration background like Yasemin Samdereli, developed special (trans)gendered and transnational gazes that led them to focus so frequently on variations of (tragi)comedy in film.
Crosslisted as: Film Studies 220TB
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
G. Wittig Davis
Notes: Taught in English. Students with previous knowledge of German are encouraged to enroll in German Studies 223 instead. 2 meetings (75 minutes) and 1 screening (2 hours)
Credits: 4

GRMST-331  Topics in German and European Studies in a Global Context
This seminar is designed to explore theoretically and practically the nature of our field of inquiry. We explore such questions as: What does German studies mean? What is interdisciplinary work? What role does literature play in culture studies? What is the relationship between language and the construction of culture? What meanings have been attributed to the terms of ‘culture’ and ‘civilization’? Texts from a variety of disciplines. Students write term papers on topics related to their major field(s) of interest.